



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

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Division Director

February 24, 2015

Doug Thornton
U.S. Oil Sands (Utah), Inc.
170 South Main Street, Suite 500
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Subject: Modification of Comment in January 21, 2015, Review, U.S. Oil Sands, PR Springs Mine, M/047/0090, Uintah County, Utah

Dear Mr. Thornton:

The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining's January 21, 2015, review of the revised Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations for the PR Spring mine contained the following comment:

The narrative notes that no springs or seeps were identified within the Phase 1 project area during a May 2014 reconnaissance with personnel from the Division, Water Quality, and the Utah Geological Survey. While this is true, the field reconnaissance did identify springs and seeps flowing within Long Shot Canyon (T16S R23E, Sec. 6), which is part of the Main Canyon watershed. The U.S. Geological Survey has mapped these springs, along with several others within the Main Canyon watershed. Access restrictions prevented the group from conducting a more detailed survey of the other mapped seeps and springs within the watershed. Because the Phase 1 mining area is part of the Main Canyon watershed, it is necessary to evaluate any impacts from the mining operation, which is why a baseline characterization of the springs and seeps is needed. Please include a baseline characterization spring and seep survey to begin in the spring of 2015.

This comment is modified to be a recommendation and not a requirement. The Division recognizes there is no known hydrologic connection between the formation from which ore would be mined and the underlying aquifer in which the water supply wells were completed. Furthermore, the Division concurs with the findings of the permit by rule issued March 4, 2008, by the Division of Water Quality including those concerning the geology and hydrology of the area. Nevertheless, the Division believes it may be helpful to periodically monitor the springs and seeps in the area as additional evidence demonstrating the lack of hydrologic connection.

Please contact me at 801-538-5261 or April Abate at 801-538-5214 if you have questions concerning this letter.

Sincerely,

Paul Baker
Minerals Program Manager

PBB

cc: Dan Hall, Water Quality (dhall@utah.gov)
Rob Dubuc, Western Resource Advocates (rdubuc@westernresources.org)
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